

I need Easter. I don't know about you, but I need Easter. I need Easter more this year than any other year. I've always enjoyed Easter. As a child I looked forward to a basket full of candies and goodies, Easter egg hunts and the family all gathering together. As an adult I've enjoyed watching the children and hiding eggs. As a pastor I've enjoyed Easter Services, the church being filled, the joy of proclaiming that Jesus Christ lives and the excitement of the congregation. But this year has been so different. We haven't had worship, Sunday School, Bible Study or any meetings for a month. To be honest the Church building is quiet and cold and the feeling of emptiness is getting much to real. To make things worse this week I had a small graveside service for a neighbor, Gene Murphy. Not because the family wanted only a graveside service but because of the virus threat. Large gatherings are not allowed. I have just returned to my office from holding a small, private funeral service for a parishioner, a brother in Christ and dear friend Cole Holley. Again, a small service not by choice but because that is all we were allowed to do. I need Easter and I need Easter desperately. I need to hear the old, old story that never gets old. I need to know that Jesus lives. I need to feel Jesus' presence, to hear his voice and to experience his great love not just for me but for all of us.

The truth is, especially this year we all need Easter, we need to celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We all need to be reminded that Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Jesus is Lord of the good times when we can worship together as we choose. Jesus is Lord when we struggle with a Pandemic and are warned and ordered not to gather in large groups. Jesus is Lord when we are told to shelter in place. Jesus is Lord when we are shaken by events beyond our control. Jesus is Lord when we are in the grips of fear and disbelief. Jesus is Lord even if we get sick and weak. In everything and through everything Jesus is Lord.

This year Easter will be different. Church will be a “drive through” experience. This year we will have to celebrate in our homes. This year we will be worshiping with just our immediate family. This year there may be wall between us and miles separating us. But the most important thing has never changed. From that first Easter morning so long ago, till eternity ends (that’s not going to happen) Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Have a happy, a blessed and a holy Easter Day!

In Christ’s love,

*Pastor Paul*